

Only Del. Lacey Putney (I-Bedford), who has served since 1962, has spent longer than Callahan in the House of Delegates. Callahan's tenure has not always been smooth. Legislators have had to go into special sessions several times in recent years because of budget disagreements. And in 1998, he apologized after making remarks that some female legislators found offensive. "They jumped on me and I haven't done it since," he said. "It wasn't meant to be demeaning to women."

Democrats already were actively targeting Callahan's seat, with candidates Margi Vanderhye and Rip Sullivan contending for the nomination in the June primary. Callahan has about \$85,000 in unspent campaign moneys and will use them to pay office expenses for the remainder of his term. Left-over funds will be given to other political campaigns or donated to charity, he said. The 34th District always has been a swing district and has been represented for many years by a Democratic state senator, Callahan said. The district's voters sided with U.S. Senate candidate James Webb (D) during his victorious campaign in November 2006, but also re-elected longtime U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10th), he said. A Republican candidate seeking the district's seat must take a moderate approach on issues, Callahan said.

"Moderation is the essence of conservatism," he said. "I think there's two sides to every issue. You don't do immigrant or gay bashing to get headlines. You have to look at the whole picture." Callahan will spend the rest of his term overseeing 400th-anniversary celebrations of the Jamestown Colony's founding. He will be among dignitaries who will greet Queen Elizabeth II on May 3 when she visits Richmond and addresses a joint General Assembly session.

Callahan was born in Washington, D.C., and served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. He also served in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve from 1959 to 1963, retiring as a lieutenant. Callahan has been a staple of Veterans Day celebrations at McLean High School, where he traditionally recites from memory John McCrae's World War I poem, "In Flanders Fields."

Fairfax County Supervisor Joan DuBois (R-Dranesville) credited Callahan with championing Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, trails in Great Falls, sound barriers along Interstate 495 in McLean and the status of Georgetown Pike as a Scenic Byway. "He was a gentleman of the 'old school' who knew that partisanship had no place in efforts to improve his community," DuBois said in a statement released Monday. "He will be greatly missed by many of us who knew him as a go-to leader in the General Assembly for longer than I have lived in Northern Virginia."

Vienna Town Council member Michael Polychrones said Callahan's departure will mark the end of an era in state politics and a loss for Northern Virginia. "It will be a big blow to the area," Polychrones said. "Vince has definitely done a yeoman's job over the years."

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ENERGY CONSERVATION THROUGH 'SMART METERS' ACT"

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Energy

Conservation through "Smart Meters" Act. No one can deny the fact that we are in the midst of an energy crisis where supply has outstripped demand. There are many avenues we can pursue to resolve this situation, one of which I have introduced today.

I believe the future of our Nation's electricity grid needs to be smarter and more efficient. While it is a vast issue that needs to be tackled in a multi-level and multi-year plan, we can take a step now to put consumers in control of their personal electricity usage. We can do this by incentivizing, through the tax code, the deployment of energy management devices—known as "Smart Meters." A "Smart Meter" is an automated electronic electricity metering device that will replace the existing meters on homes and businesses.

The first electricity meter was invented in the 1930s at the dawn of electrification in the United States. The meter is based on small wheels turning inside the unit to count kilowatt hours used at a flat price. If you look at your meter today, you will see fundamentally the same device using technology that is more than 70 years old. These meters were invented prior to the development of computers and have no intelligence, memory, or ability to communicate. Certainly if we can place a call on a cell phone that is as thin as a pack of gum, then we can invest in advanced metering technology for home energy use.

Because of the advanced age of our metering technology, neither the consumer nor the utility has the kind of real-time information they need to make necessary decisions to best use the available electricity. "Smart Meters" change this by harnessing the power of computers and digital communications to create intelligent and connected energy systems. The revolution in technology behind today's "Smart Meters" is equivalent to the change from typewriters to a personal computer connected to the Internet. These systems empower consumers to use electricity wisely and help utilities forecast and manage energy loads more efficiently and accurately—quickly reducing electricity outages.

The use of new technology will allow customers who reduce consumption when prices are high to save more on their bills. In fact, according to GAO and FERC studies, the widespread adoption of smart metering technologies would save American consumers billions of dollars in avoided electricity costs. While consumers get a better deal on their power, society as a whole will benefit. Consumption will be reduced during peak hours which will reduce greenhouse gases because power companies will no longer have to rely on inefficient and dirty peaking generators to meet the high demand.

Madam Speaker, now is the time to deploy 21st century technology to conserve energy and put consumers in control of their electricity bills.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 254

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 254, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act

of 2007. This legislation makes a profound statement that this country will not tolerate bigotry and ignorance that results in violence against its citizens.

My first vote as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives was for equal rights on housing and employment for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gendered (GLBT) community. As a Member of Congress, including this important vote today, I will have proudly voted for this legislation three times. It is time for this bill to become law so that all Americans can fully participate in and enjoy the rights of a democratic society.

Since 1991 the FBI has received more than 113,000 reports of hate crimes and we know that this crime is underreported. The message of this bill is clear. The country does not tolerate crimes committed against individuals based on their sexual orientation. Crimes of hate are unlike other violent acts of randomness. Targeting people because of their race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender or disability is a form of domestic terrorism that sends chilling messages to communities that they are not welcome and that intolerance and ignorance is alive and well.

Some have inaccurately suggested that this bill legislates against thoughts and ideas. That is absolutely untrue. The focus of this bill is to provide local authorities a greater means by which to prosecute violent acts of hate, not thoughts. Not only does this bill not legislate against thoughts and speech, it explicitly includes First Amendment free speech protections for persons accused of acts of hate.

Current law limits federal jurisdiction over hate crimes to violent acts committed against citizens based on religion, race, color and national origin if they are targeted while they are participating in federally protected activities, such as voting. H.R. 254 will strengthen federal law by expanding federal jurisdiction and allocate the necessary resources and tools to local law enforcement officials and prosecutors to go after individuals who act on their bigotry and ignorance with violence. The needed prosecution of hate crimes can stretch crucial state and local resources thin. This legislation authorizes the Attorney General to make grants available to law enforcement agencies that have acquired astounding expenses investigating and prosecuting hate crime cases.

This bill is needed to protect the civil rights of all Americans who have been targeted based on their differences and it utilizes the resources of this government to ensure fairness and justice. I commend the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. CONYERS, for bringing this legislation to the Floor and I urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING VOLKER EISELE OF
NAPA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Volker Eisele who is being presented the Earl Thollander Award from the Napa Sierra Club. This award is given annually to acknowledge the work of an individual on behalf of the environment.

Mr. Eisele was born in Muenster, Germany, and followed family tradition by attending high school at the Gymnasium Paulinum, founded over 1,200 years ago. He came to the United States to attend graduate school at UC Berkeley for sociology and history. It was at Berkeley that he met his wife Lisele, and they married in 1968.

From the planting of his first cabernet vines in 1975, Mr. Eisele has maintained an entirely organic vineyard, making him the first vintner to do so in the Napa Valley. He has been a leader in encouraging sustainable and environmentally friendly farming practices, including the maintenance and restoration of riparian corridors and stream-side habitats. In 1991 he joined the growing movement to forever protect beautiful and vital areas of the Napa Valley by donating an open space easement to the Napa County Land Trust.

Mr. Eisele has had a long and successful career as a political activist campaigning on behalf of greater environmental protections for the Napa Valley and its agricultural heritage. He was among the leaders who helped pass Measure A limiting growth and development in unincorporated areas of Napa County. He was also instrumental in passing Measure J which has promoted further protections for agricultural lands around the county.

In addition to his political leadership, Mr. Eisele has been a leader in the local community through his service on numerous boards and committees. He served as President of the Napa County Farm Bureau, the Napa Valley Grape Growers, and the Greenbelt Alliance, which has promoted the extension of environmental protections around the Bay Area. He also was honored by his peers when he was elected to serve as director and Vice Chair of the California Association of Wine Grape Growers. These positions have allowed Mr. Eisele to express his love of grapes and winemaking while working for the benefit of not just the wine industry, but the greater community.

Madam Speaker, at this time I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Volker Eisele for his decades of leadership and environmental stewardship and as a superb spokesman for the wine industry. He is well-deserving of the honor being bestowed on him by the Napa Sierra Club, and we thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF KAREN E. HALLIDAY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Karen Halliday, as she retires as Las Positas College president, after nearly 35 years of teaching and serving students in the California Community College System.

Karen Halliday began teaching as an adjunct faculty member in Learning Disabilities and Special Education at various Bay Area universities. As a faculty member and Learning Disabilities Specialist at De Anza College in Cupertino, she helped develop the first Learning Disabilities program in higher education in California. She later became the director of the Educational Diagnostic Center at De Anza College.

In 1987, Karen Halliday was the first faculty member to receive the Foothill-De Anza Community College Teacher of the Year Award. In 1988, she joined the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office in Sacramento, as the Specialist for the Disabled Students Program and Services.

In 1989, Karen Halliday became the Vice President of Student Services at Las Positas. In 2002, she was named president of Las Positas College. During her tenure, she successfully led the college through the passage of Measure B, a \$498 million district facilities bond.

In 2003, thanks to her encouragement and guidance, the Las Positas College Foundation was created to "foster growth and success, both in its students and in the communities it serves." Later that year, the foundation was granted 501(c)3 status.

Karen Halliday has been a member of the Executive Board for the Association of California Community College Administrators and the Chair of the Legislative Commission for the California League of Community Colleges. She has authored several publications, along with numerous Board of Governors Agenda Items related to Matriculation, DSPS, and Student Services.

As Karen Halliday retires, I would like to thank her for her dedication to higher education in our community, and her contribution to the field of disabled students' services. I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

IN CELEBRATION OF ALICE BERNICE HILL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to draw attention to the life of a remarkable woman, who despite all her illnesses lived a wonderful life. Alice Bernice Hill was afflicted with asthma and other diseases early in her life, yet through all her ailments lived past 85.

Born in Harlem Hospital on December 1, 1919, Alice was sent to the West Indies for "two years, one month and eight days" due to her severe illnesses. She never had a lot of money, and had even less when on disability, and still she was able to support herself.

In her early years, Alice was forced to join the workforce to support her family, as required by the welfare program. She later rose through the ranks and became a union administrator, with groups like the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and the United Auto Workers. Through union courses at Cornell University, she obtained a bachelor's degree in labor relations.

Her efforts to refuse to let her ailments cripple her saved her life. Surviving a stroke, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and arthritis, lived on to watch her brother Arthur, six nieces and nephews, two grandchildren and one grandnephew grow.

Truly a woman of great dignity and honor, Alice is deserving of this recognition for her strength, intelligence, and compassion. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing the life of Alice Bernice Hill and her relentless strength.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER'S DAY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, yesterday, mothers from across the Nation were besieged with flowers, candy, homemade cards, and gifts in celebration of Mother's Day. As we all take a moment to honor the women in our lives, it is important for Congress to do the same. For the past several years, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act has been stalled in the Congress. This critical legislation would authorize a research program at the National Institutes of Health to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment. It would also include consumer advocates in the peer review and programmatic review process. While it is generally believed that the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, the extent of that role remains a mystery. Less than 30 percent of breast cancers are explained by known risk factors, which means that up to 70 percent of those who suffer are still searching for answers.

As with other cancers, if we know what causes it, we can do so much more to prevent it from ever occurring. On this Mother's Day, let's pass the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act for our moms, for our daughters and future moms-to-be, and for everyone who has ever been touched by a loved one with breast cancer. It is time to celebrate the women in our lives with more than pink flowers and pajamas; it is time to celebrate them with the honor and commitment to medical research that will soon save their lives.

TRIBUTE TO THE MERRITT ES- TATE WINERY FOR ITS CONTIN- UED EXCELLENCE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Merritt Estate Winery, located in Forestville, NY. Merritt Estate Winery recently was awarded a gold medal for their Bella Rosa at the San Diego International Wine Competition. Their Chautauqua Niagara vintage was awarded a silver medal in the competition.

Merritt Estate Winery is run by a father and son duo that have dedicated themselves to their small vineyard and their fruit which has resulted in their award winning wines. The winery was created in 1976 by William Merritt, who has had the estate in his family since the 1800's. Merritt Estates Bella Rosa was awarded the gold medal at the 24th annual San Diego International Wine Competition. The awards won by Merritt Estate are the result of hard work and dedication that have resulted in wines that rival some of the best in the world.

Western New York is home to the largest continuous acreage of concord grapes in the world. The regional grape industry contributes \$3.3 billion in economic value to the New York State economy each year. As a member of the Wine and Grape Caucus, I am proud that